



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

MITCH IRWIN
DIRECTOR

Dear Friends:

As Michigan Department of Agriculture director, I am thrilled to showcase Michigan's agricultural bounty during the 2007 fair season. Michigan is very fortunate to offer our citizens 86 county and local fairs!

Michigan's strong agricultural heritage is displayed each year at the Fair. Our agriculture industry contributes \$60.1 billion annually to the state's economy, making it our second-largest industry, and employs more than one million Michigan residents.

Michigan produces more than 200 commodities, making it the second state only to California in agricultural diversity. Our state leads the nation in the production of nine commodities, including tart cherries, blueberries, cucumbers for pickles, geraniums and many varieties of dry beans.

Our local and county fairs offer traditional exhibits to the latest rides and games, not to mention loads of family fun. Take time to visit the fair...there is something for people of all ages!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Irwin".

Mitch Irwin
Director